(*c*) what is the quantity of beedi leaves obtained from there yearly and what is its price; and

(*d*) if there is any other place in Travancore where beedi leaf plant is grown?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : (*a*) Beedi leaf plant grows naturally over an area of about 50 acres in the Puliyara Reserve, Shencotta Division.

(*b*) The growth is spontaneous.

(*c*) 323 bundles of leaves were collected in Edavam 1116 and sold in auction for B. Rs. 20-8-0;

(*d*) Cultivation of the plant in plantations in the Shencotta and Southern Divisions has been started.

Circular re note-books used in schools.

467 ❋ **MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the Director of Public Instruction has issued a circular insisting that not more than five note books should be used by students in schools; and

(*b*) whether certain schools are compelling pupils to purchase more than a dozen note books?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No complaints have been received in regard to such action on the part of any school authority subsequent to the issue of the circular.

Retirement of Dr. P. Narasimhiah.

468 ❋ **MR. G. VELU PILLAI** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether Dr. P. Narasimhiah, Professor of Philosophy in the Arts College has been granted leave preparatory to retirement;

(*b*) whether the retirement is at his request and

(*c*) if not, the reasons for his retirement?

DR. K. L. MOUDGILL : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) *No.*

(*c*) Unsatisfactory conduct.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI : With reference to the answer to part (c) may I know what the unsatisfactory conduct is?

DR. K. L. MOUDGILL : Perhaps the honourable member will be satisfied if I tell him that the matter has been very thoroughly looked into and that it need not be pressed further.

Short vacancies in service and Kuzhithura Munsiff's Court.

469 ❋ **MR. G. VELU PILLAI** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is any circular or order that vacancies of less than a month's duration are not to be filled up;

(*b*) whether it applies to Judicial officers also; and

(*c*) for how many continuous days in the month of Mithunam, the presiding officer was absent from the Kuzhithura Munsiff's Court?

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MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : (*a*) Yes. There is a circular on the subject.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) 30 days (from the 2nd to 31st Mithunam.)

MR. G. VELU PILLAI : Sir, May I know whether this circular will not cause much inconvenience to the Judicial Department ?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : It is a matter of opinion, Sir.

Clerks in the Finance and the Accounts Departments.

479. * MR. THARIATHU KUNJITHOMMEN : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement, by caste, of the total number of clerks in the Finance and the Account Departments ?

MR. R. RAMA VARIER : The Statement is placed on the table.

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* *Vide* Appendix XIII.—Page 1001.

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